CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A computer readable medium containing processor executable instructions for providing assistance to a user, comprising:

code for monitoring user events;

code for determining whether a series of user events is unrelated; and

code for offering assistance to a user, wherein said code for offering assistance is operable upon determination by said code for determining that said series of user events is unrelated.

2.   The computer readable medium of claim 1 wherein said executable instructions are operable to execute as a modification to an operating system.

3.   The computer readable medium of claim 1 further comprising:

code for prompting a user for search terms; and

code for conducting a hierarchical search utilizing said search terms, wherein said code for conducting is operable to first search content previously designated in a user profile.

4.   The computer readable medium of claim 3 wherein said code for conducting is operable to search user websites when information is not obtained locally on a system executing said code for conducting.

5.   The computer readable medium of claim 3 further comprising:

code for presenting search results to a user.

6.   The computer readable medium of claim 5 further comprising:

code for receiving user input selecting a search result of said search results; and

code for designating said selected search result in said user profile.

7.   The computer readable medium of claim 5 further comprising:

code for receiving user input selecting a search result of said search results; and

code for maintaining a count of a number of times that a user has selected said selected search result in said user profile, wherein said code for presenting is operable to present search results weighted by said number of times.

8. A method for providing an adaptive computer user interface, comprising:

monitoring operating system events associated with input from a user to generate a series of operating system events;

determining whether said series of operating system events is unrelated; and

when said series of operating system events is unrelated, offering help to said user.

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising:

prompting the user for search terms; and

performing a search of at least one help facility of an application currently being executed by the user utilizing said search terms.

10. The method of claim 8 further comprising:

receiving input from said user indicative that search terms do not include information useful to the user; and

performing a search of at least one other help facility.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein said at least one other help facility is associated with the operating system.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein said at least one other help facility is associated with a user group web site.

13. The method of claim 9 further comprising:

receiving input that a search result is pertinent to the user; and

designating said search result in a user profile.

14. The method of claim 13 further comprising:

performing a second search, wherein said second search is operable to first search content associated with designations in said user profile.

15. The method of claim 8 wherein said step of monitoring includes placing operating system events into a queue having a dynamic length, and wherein said step of offering includes monitoring the dynamic length of said queue and waiting until the dynamic length of said queue equals a predetermined number before offering help to the user.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising:

changing the predetermined number based upon a percentage of times that the user provides input indicative that the user desires help in response to the offer of help.

17. A system for providing a computer user interface, comprising:

means for monitoring user input;

means for determining whether a series of events is a unrelated series; and

means for offering assistance to said user, wherein said means for offering assistance is operable to offer assistance when said means for determining determines that said series of events is a unrelated series.

18. The system of claim 17 further comprising:

means for conducting a hierarchical series of searches.

19. The system of claim 18 wherein said means for conducting is operable to first search content designated in a user profile before searching other content.

20. A system for providing an adaptive computer user interface to offer help to a user, comprising:

a processor for executing code;

a user profile containing designations of previous search results selected by the user during previous user help searches;

a first set of code operable to analyze user input events to determine whether the user input events are unrelated, wherein said first set of code is operable to analyze a minimum predetermined number of user input events;

a second set of code operable to query the user to determine if the user desires help, wherein said second set of code is operable when said first set of code determines that said user input events are unrelated; and

a third set of code operable to conduct a hierarchical search of help resources, wherein said third set of code first searches help content designated in said user profile before performing general purpose searches.

21. The system of claim 20 further comprising:

another set of code operable to modify said minimum predetermined number based upon user responses to said query presented by said second set of code.

22. The system of claim 20 further comprising:

another set of code operable to present search results to said user.

23. The system of claim 20 further comprising:

another set of code operable to update said user profile when said user selects a particular search result of search results.